

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 IO-10 /090 W

----- 077438

R 091136Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,TH,LA

SUBJECT: THAI REACTION TO THE SITUATION IN LAOS

SUMMARY. THE RTG IS WATCHING THE SITUATION IN LAOS, BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF ACTING OR COMMENTING ON IT EXCEPT TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE INFLUX OF LAO INTO THAILAND. THE THAI HOPE THE SITUATION WILL STABILIZE, AND HAVE NOT YET THOUGHT OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF A PATHET LAO TAKOVER. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION CHIEF, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE RTG IS GOING TO SIT TIGHT WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN LAOS. THE RTG WILL EXPRESS CONCERN ONLY ABOUT THE INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM LAOS INTO THAILAND. THE RTG HOPES TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PGNU TO EVENTUALLY RETURN THESE PEOPLE TO LAOS.

2. THE MFA OFFICIAL EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE SITUATION IN LAOS WILL STABILIZE. HE MENTIONED THE EARLIER UNREST IN BAN HOUAI SAI, WHICH HE SAID CALMED DOWN AFTER A WHILE WHEN THE LAO REACHED AGREEMENT

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AMONG THEMSELVES.

3. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE RTG IS NOT IN A POSITION TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE LAO SITUATION, AND ANYTHING THE RTG SAID ABOUT IT WOULD BE HELD AGAINST THE THAI. HE SAID IT IS BEST FOR THE RTG TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LAOS, SINCE IT IS AN INTERNAL LAO AFFAIR. HE DECLINED TO INTERPRET THE EVENTS IN LAOS IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA.

4. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

5. COMMENT. GIVEN ITS INABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN LAOS, THE MFA APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT ITS ONLY COURSE IS TO SIT BACK AND HOPE THAT EVERYTHING WORKS OUT FOR THE BEST. UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER DUCKED QUESTIONS ON LAOS IN HIS LATEST (MAY 9) PRESS CONFERENCE. THE THAI WOULD NATURALLY BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT A PATHET LAO TAKOVER IN LAOS, BUT THEY PREFER NOT TO THINK ABOUT ITS CONSEQUENCES UNTIL IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS. MASTERS

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